



# Bleak Hill Primary School

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

AUTUMN 2024

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## Statement of intent

**Bleak Hill Primary School** is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils, regardless of financial circumstances, and has established the following policy and procedures to ensure that no child is discriminated against by our offering of school trips, activities and educational extras.

In addition, we are committed to adhering to legal requirements regarding charging for school activities, and meeting all statutory guidance provided by the DfE.

The school will:

- Never charge for education provided during school hours.
- Inform parents on low incomes and in receipt of relevant benefits of the support available to them when asking for contributions towards the costs of school visits.

Please note that while this policy may be more or less generous than the LA's, we have ensured it meets the requirements of the law.

## **1. Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) (England) Regulations 2010
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- DfE (2018) 'Charging for school activities'
- DfE (2020) 'Governance handbook'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Freedom of Information Policy
- Finance Policy

## **2. Charging for education**

The school will not charge for:

- Admission applications.
- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment).
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for by the school, or part of RE.
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless provided at the request of the pupil's parent.
- Entry for a prescribed public examination, if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school.
- Examination resits, if the pupil is being prepared for the resits at the school.

The school may charge for:

- Materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent wishes their child to own them.
- Optional extras.
- Music tuition (in certain circumstances).
- The use of community facilities and other commercial activities.
- Provision of information within the scope of freedom of information.

The school will make it clear that, in the following circumstances, it will propose to remit (wholly or partly) any charge which would otherwise be payable to the school:

## **3. Optional extras**

The school may charge for the following optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not:

- Part of the national curriculum
- Part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
- Part of RE
- Examination entry fees where the pupil has not been prepared for the examinations at the school
- Transport, other than that required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the LA has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils, e.g. breakfast or out-of-school provision such as extra-curricular clubs.

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to the following:

- Materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in relation to the optional extra
- Buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff (including TAs)
- Teaching staff under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide vocal tuition or tuition in playing a musical instrument, where the tuition is an optional extra

The school will not charge in excess of the actual cost of providing the optional extra divided by the number of participating pupils. A subsidy will not be charged for any pupils wishing to participate but whose parents are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge. In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the school will not charge for the cost of alternative provision for those not participating.

The school will not charge for supply teachers to cover for teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit.

Participation in any optional activity will be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet the charges; therefore, parental agreement is a prerequisite for the provision of an optional extra where charges will be made.

If a charge is to be made for a particular activity, such as optional extras, parents will be informed of how the charge will be calculated.

## **4. Examination fees and resits**

The school may charge for examination fees if:

- The examination is on the set list (which includes SATs), but the pupil was not prepared for it at the school.
- The examination is not on the set list, but the school arranged for the pupil to take it. A pupil fails, without good reason, to complete the requirements of any public examination where the governing board or LA originally paid or agreed to pay the entry fee.

- Where a pupil is entered for a second or subsequent attempt at an examination, the school will pay the fee. Once pupils have left the school, resits must be taken at the school.

If a pupil or their parent consider it to be in the best interests of the pupil to request that an examination is re-marked, any fees involved will be covered by the pupil or their parent. If the awarding body changes the overall grade of the result, the school will not be charged by the awarding body and the parent or pupil will have their fees refunded.

## 5. Voluntary contributions

The school may, from time-to-time, ask for voluntary contributions towards the benefit of the school or school activities. If an activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the school will make this clear to parents at the outset. There will be no obligation for parents to make a contribution and parents will be notified regarding whether assistance is available.

No pupil will be excluded from an activity simply because their parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child will still be given an equal opportunity to take part in the activity. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund an activity, and the school cannot fund it via another source, the activity will be cancelled.

The school will strive to ensure that parents do not feel pressurised into making voluntary contributions.

## 6. Music tuition

Instrumental and vocal music tuition is an exception to the rule that all education provided during school hours must be free. The Charges for Music Tuition (England) Regulations 2007 allow for charges to be made for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of any size – provided that the tuition is at the request of the pupil's parents. The charges will not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff providing the tuition.

Charging will not be made if the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum.

Charging will also not be made if the teaching is provided under the first access to the KS2 Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Programme.

No charge will be made in respect of pupils who are LAC.

## 7. Out of School Clubs

The cost for breakfast & Afterschool club are detailed within the terms and conditions as shown below.

Breakfast Club	From 7:30 am - start of school	£6.00 per child per session
	From 8:00 am - start of school	£4 per child per session
	From 7:30 am - 8:00 am Before an extra-curricular club	£3.50 per child per session
After School Club	End of school day - 4:30 pm	£4.50 per child per session
	End of school day - 5:30 pm	£7.50 per child per session

	From 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Following an extra-curricular club	£4.50 per child per session
	End of School day - 4:30 pm Before an extra-curricular club	£4.50 per child per session

All children should be collected from the club by 5:30 pm. If parents are not able to do so, they must contact staff at the club on the club mobile number to inform them of their expected time of arrival. The current fee for collection after 5:30 pm is £5.00 for every 5 minutes or part thereof.

If parents do not wish to use a place, they have pre-booked, they will be able to cancel sessions online, up to midnight on the day before. Any cancellations after that, should be made by phoning the school office. These sessions will be chargeable unless due to child illness.

Please note that under the terms and conditions if more than one reminder letter regarding debt recovery is necessary, we reserve the right to apply an administration fee of £5.00 per letter to your account.

In the event that an account runs into significant credit, parents will be alerted. At this point we will ask you to run down the credit before making any further payments. We are not able to carry significant balances, and these may be returned to you or the voucher company at our discretion.

## 8. Lettings

Charges for premises / field hire will be reviewed annually by the Board of Governors.

### Premises Hire Charges 2024-2025

<b>Hall</b>
£20 per hour
<b>Catering</b>
1. Kitchen facilities are available - use included in price 2. Provide your own refreshments (tea, coffee, sugar, milk etc) 3. No alcohol is allowed on the premises
<b>Field only</b>
£12 per session without facilities
<b>Holiday Camp (daily rate if exclusive to Bleak Hill Pupils)</b>
£60 per day
<b>Catering</b>
1. Kitchen facilities are available - use included in price 2. Provide your own refreshments (tea, coffee, sugar, milk etc) 3. No alcohol is allowed on the premises

## 9. Transport

The school will not charge for:

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the LA has a statutory obligation to provide the transport.

- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the governing board or LA has arranged for pupils to be educated.
- Transporting pupils to meet an examination requirement when they have been prepared for the examination at the school.
- Transport provided for an educational visit.

## **10. Education partly during school hours**

If 50 percent or more of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours (including time spent travelling if the travel occurs during school hours), it will be deemed to take place during school hours and no charge will be made.

Whatever the start and finish times of the school day, regulations require that the school day is divided into two sessions. School hours will not include the break in the middle of the day.

If less than 50 percent of the time spent on an activity occurs during school hours, it will be deemed to have taken place outside school hours and the school may charge for the activity; however, the school will not charge if the activity is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of RE.

The remission of charges for board and lodging payments is the responsibility of the school. These costs will be borne by the school.

Any charges for extended day services will be optional.

## **11. Residential visits**

The school will not charge for:

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours.
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, part of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school, or part of RE.
- Supply teachers to cover for teachers accompanying pupils on visits.

The school will charge for board and lodging, but the charge will not exceed the actual cost.

## **12. Damaged or lost items**

The school may charge for the cost of replacing items that are damaged or lost due to the negligence or poor behaviour of pupils or their parents. Parents will only be charged the replacement cost to purchase the same or equivalent item. The school will consider waiving costs in exceptional circumstances, e.g. financial hardship.

- Reading record replacement £3.00 each
- RWI Phonics books that are lost £2.50 each
- RWI Book bag books that are lost £4.50 each
- Ambassador/Word Millionaire/Prefect badges £2.50 each

## **13. Remissions**

If the full cost of the trip or activity cannot be met through voluntary contributions, the trip or activity may be cancelled. On a case-by-case basis, any shortfall will be assessed to see if the school's fund are able to cover it, prior to the decision to cancel it being made. If funds are available these may be remitted to the activity to allow it to go ahead.

## **14. School trip refunds**

All initial deposits for school trips will be non-refundable. Parents will be informed of this when they are provided with initial information about the trip.

In the event that the school has to cancel a trip due to foreseen circumstances, parental contributions will be refunded. In the event that a school trip is cancelled by a party other than the school due to unforeseen circumstances, it is at the school's discretion as to whether a refund is given to parents.

In the event that a pupil or their parents cancel the pupil's place on a trip, it will be at the school's discretion as to whether a refund is given. The school will take into account the reason for cancellation, whether the school will be reimbursed for the pupil's place on the trip, and whether the place on the trip can be offered to another pupil.

Where a pupil or their parents have previously cancelled a place on a trip and received a full refund, the school will have the right to refuse to allow the pupil to attend future trips and visits.

In the event that a pupil cannot attend a trip at the last minute, e.g. due to illness, it will be at the school's discretion as to whether a refund is given. The school will take into account whether the school will be reimbursed for the pupil's place on the trip and whether the place on the trip can be offered to another pupil.

In the event that a school trip is postponed due to unforeseen circumstances, it will be at the school's discretion as to what happens with the parental contributions for the trip. The school will consider its options, which could include carrying forward the money until the trip takes place, transferring the money to another trip, or refunding parents.

In the event that the decision is made to postpone a trip due to foreseen circumstances, it will be at the school's discretion as to what happens with the parental contributions for the trip. The school will consider its options, which could include carrying forward the money until the trip takes place, transferring the money to another trip, or refunding parents.

Once trip arrangements have been booked and confirmed, if contributions exceed the total cost of the trip, a refund will be given where the excess is greater than £1 per pupil.

The school will deal with cancellations and refunds on a case-by-case basis, ensuring that all pupils and their families are treated equally.

If a parent wishes to make a complaint about refunds, they will be able to do so via the Complaints Procedures Policy.

## **15. Freedom of Information Policy and Publication Scheme**

The school's Freedom of Information Policy and Freedom of Information Publication Scheme will set out where fees may be charged for the provision of information.

## **16. Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed at least **annually** by the governing board. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **October 2025**.